

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Georgia



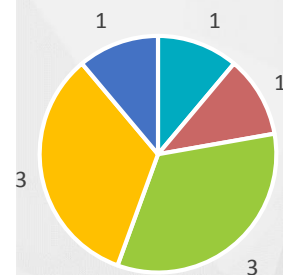
## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact nearly every state in the nation, including three in Georgia. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.

### Georgia Projects to Date

#### Projects by Resource Concern



- Climate Change
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Habitat
- Water Quantity/Drought
- Energy

9

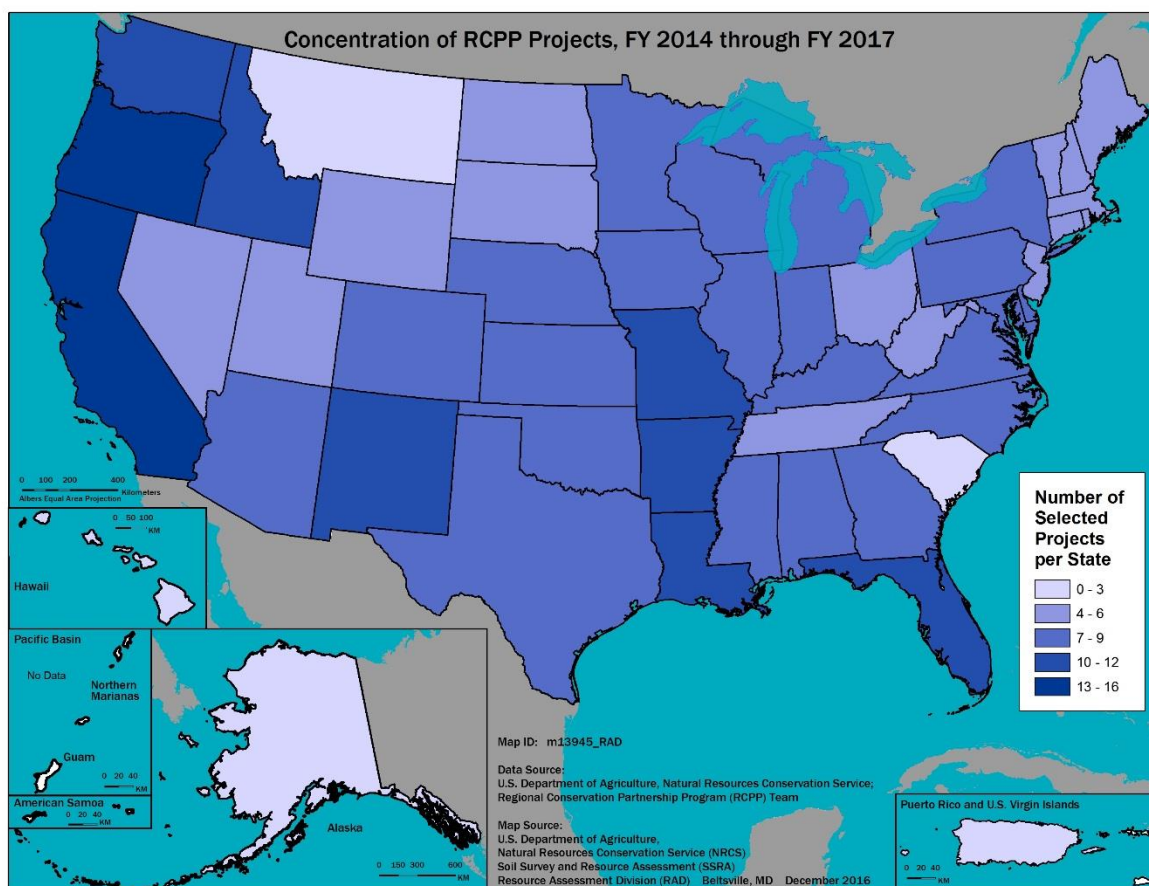
Projects

\$34  
million

NRCS Investment

131

Partners



## Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Southern Sentinel Landscapes Conservation	National	U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities	20	\$7.5 million
2016	Wetlands and Wildlife for Georgia Watersheds	State	The Nature Conservancy - Georgia	8	\$802,000
2014/2015	Securing Private Working Forests to Benefit Longleaf Pine, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Military Readiness	CCA	U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities	16	\$12 million
2014/2015	Enhancing Conservation in the Lower Flint River Basin of Georgia	State	Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District	10	\$1 million
2014/2015	Protection of Soil and Water Quality in the Savannah, Oconee, Ogeechee, Ocmulgee, Satilla, and Altamaha Watersheds	State	Athens Land Trust	4	\$1 million
2014/2015	Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Rivers (ACFR) Conservation Partnership for Alabama, Florida, and Georgia	National	Flint River soil and Water Conservation District	32	\$4 million

## 2017 RCPP Projects

### Climate Resiliency in Florida, Alabama and Georgia

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$3,000,000 (National)

Lead Partner: Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 32

Participating States: Alabama, Florida and Georgia (Lead State)

The Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin stretches from the base of the Appalachian Mountains in North Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico in the Florida Panhandle. The vibrant ecological Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin and adjacent Ochlockonee River Basin provide habitat for a rich biodiversity of aquatic and terrestrial species, including many designated as endangered or threatened. Growers in this region provide food, fuel, forest products and fiber to global markets, and they depend upon the areas natural resources to sustain their livelihoods. Over the last few decades, fluctuations in climate patterns have presented challenges to sustainable management of the region's natural resources. The Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District and over 30 multi-state partners will develop and implement practical solutions for climate change adaptation in the river basins.



## **Sentinel Landscape At-Risk Species Conservation**

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$3,000,000 (National)

Lead Partner: U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

Number of Initial Partners: 7

Participating States: Georgia (Lead State)

The listing of Candidate Conservation Species and continued demise of Threatened species can have profound impacts on public and corporate producers. Listing of the wide-ranging gopher tortoise in Georgia, for example, would economically impact thousands of producers and millions of acres. The Sentinel Landscape At-Risk Conservation project will protect and restore habitat that might preclude listing of the gopher tortoise in Georgia and accelerate recovery of the black pine snake and gopher tortoise in Mississippi. Building upon existing federal agency efforts, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and multiple local partners will encourage conservation easements and habitat restoration to protect critical properties that form the core of recovery efforts.

## **North Georgia Poultry Energy Efficiency and Nutrient Management Planning Initiative**

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,700,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council

Number of Initial Partners: 7

Participating States: Georgia (Lead State)

The North Georgia Poultry Energy Efficiency and Nutrient Management Planning Initiative will bring conservation partners together with local poultry farmers to identify on-farm energy efficiency opportunities and improve farm profitability through energy conservation implementation. These improvements will have the added benefit of improving air quality by reducing emissions of air pollutants and reducing climate change impacts through reduction of greenhouse gases. The project will also help poultry farmers with an interest in or requirement for nutrient management planning for on-farm implementation. Implementation of nutrient management plans will lead to a reduction in water quality degradation, and indirectly, reduce inadequate habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates.